

February 28, 2006

RULES PROCESSING TEAM  
MAILED 2-28-06  
MAR - 1 2006

Walter D. Cruickshank  
*Acting Director, Minerals Management Service*  
Attention: Rules Processing Team  
Department of the Interior  
381 Elden Street, MS-4024  
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817

Re: Alternate Energy-Related Uses on the Outer Continental Shelf—1010-AD30

Dear Mr. Cruickshank,

Wind power is a reality today. More than 2,400 megawatts of wind generation – enough to serve more than 650,000 average American homes – was installed on land in the United States in 2005 alone. With continued government encouragement to accelerate its development, this increasingly competitive source of energy will provide at least six percent of the nation's electricity by 2020 and revitalize communities – without consuming any natural resource or emitting any pollution or greenhouse gases.

Minerals Management Service (MMS) has a unique opportunity to encourage development of our offshore wind energy resources through the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It is important to my company that offshore wind resources are developed because of the economic and environmental benefits such development will bring to American shores.

We have to shift from capturing fish by dredge nets, to producing and cultivating fishery and fish ranching based on a cooperation among producers such as some fishing Cooperatives, recreational fisherman and administrative organizations as a measure against excessive fishing of coastal fishery in recent years. Fishiers' are one of the United States basic industries for food and important to tourism of the East Coast. Utilizing bases of offshore wind turbines for cultivation and multiplication of fish as a "Dual Use" of foundations on shoals and in deep water for the future will help reduce higher cost of construction and make it cost effective to build in the ocean. Therefore, there is a considerable large multiplier effect of coexistence with each other. Offshore wind development can give the U.S. a valuable tool for pre-screening of vessels for deployment of nuclear-detection system to thwart the importation of illegal nuclear and radiological materials before it comes to our ports.

My company is a member of the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and we support the comments AWEA submitted on behalf of its members. It is imperative that MMS encourage the timely development of the relatively few economically viable projects proposed in the near-term. Delays could have wide-ranging impacts on the viability and creation of this new renewable energy industry for the United States of America.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,



Michael A Mercurio Island Wind Inc 39 West Indiana Ave, Beach Haven Terrace,  
N.J.08008